Demand of foodgrains under PDS

2176. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tha the demand of the foodgrains under Public Distribution System has been lower in the first three quarters of the year 1992-93 in comparison to the demand during the corresponding period of the last year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that inspite of the low demand, the amount of subsidy to be provided for the foodgrains is likely to be increased in comparison to the last year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Food Subsidy

2177. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food subsidy provided during last three years;

(b) what is the projection of food subsidy for 1992-93; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce food subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The following amounts have been released/paid by the Government of India to the FCI towards food subsidy during the last 3 years:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	2476 including on sugar
1990-91	2450 including on sugar
1991-92	2850

(b) During the year 1992-93, a provision of Rs. 2800 crores has been made in the Revised estimates for providing subsidy to the Food Corporation of India.

(c) Increase in food subsidy is mainly attributable to increase in procurement cost of grains, partial passing on of the increased cost to PDS consumers, increase in interest charges, increase in freight rates, wage revision etc. However, FCI has taken/has been taking steps to reduce its operational cost. Some of these steps are listed below:—

(i) Adopting a systematic policy of liquidating CAP storage, issuing old stocks, disposing of C & D category of stocks and introducing stricter supervision on movement of foodgrains to control the incidence of transit and storage shortage;

(ii) The Corporation has taken steps to promptly de-hire the storage capacity rendered surplus on account of lower level of stocks;

(iii) Recruitment to entry-level posts has been banned and the vacancies arising out of resignation, retirement etc. are not being filled up;

(iv) Procurement and movement ratio to be reduced;

(v) Maximum utilisation of storage capacity;

(vi) Reducing demurrage charges.

Wheat Shipment from U.S.

2178. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50,000 tones wheat shipment arrived from United States was detained;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it was infested;